



DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER

Dougherty Arts Center

Visual Artist Residency Work Exchange Program

Application Guidelines





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City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Mission:

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.

The Dougherty Arts Center

The Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) is an award-winning cultural arts center that offers a variety of visual, performing and digital arts experiences for a broad audience through its three programs - the Dougherty Arts Center Theater, the Julia C. Buttridge Gallery and the Dougherty Arts School.

The Visual Artist Residency Mission

The Visual Artist Residency Program strives to provide visual artists with the space, facilities, time and professional interaction that will foster and further develop their ideas, skills, abilities and focus as practicing artists. The Artist Residency Program will nurture the development of the studio's creative environment for DAC students. This is a work exchange program where resident artists are expected to create outreach opportunities within our community such as teaching workshops, giving public presentations, critiques and monitoring our independent study program and open studio hours. Residency term is six months, renewable for another six months (1 year total).

There are two levels of the Visual Artist Residency; Emerging Artist and Established Artist.

Emerging Artist

Emerging Visual Artist Residencies are available to promising artists in their foundational years that are committed to advancing their own work and exploring a potential professional career. We encourage applicants who would like to make art and creativity a continuing part of their lives, even if they have not pursued it in a post-secondary institutional setting.

Established Artist

Established Visual Artist Residencies recognize and support artists whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit, who have already proven their abilities, and are at a career stage that is beyond emerging. Ideal applicants have experience with studio operations, have developed a body of work and need the time and space to further develop as a professional artist, and have a desire to share their knowledge with the community.



Goals of the Visual Artist Residency Program

1. Support visual artists as they engage in meaningful work.
2. Support the visual arts as an integral component of a vibrant community and thriving economy.
3. Forge and sustain partnerships and creative collaborations within the community.
4. Foster sustainable growth and development of the creative community.
5. Support visual artists in developing their body of artwork as well as a career in the arts through opportunities for education, exhibition, and leadership.
6. Enhance the presentation of, and diversity within, emerging and established visual artists in Austin.

Eligibility

Emerging Artist Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be visual artists over 18 years old who live in the Austin area (within Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis or Williamson counties).
2. Applicants may not be a current City of Austin employee, contractor, or vendor; or become one during the Visual Artist Residency.
3. Applicants must agree to and clear a Criminal Background Investigation (CBI) if selected as the top candidate.
4. Applicants must be CPR/first aid/AED certified, or agree to obtain certification within 30 days of the Visual Artist Residency start date if selected as the top candidate.
5. A college degree is NOT required to apply for this Visual Artist Residency.
6. Documentation of experience within the field of application must be provided through the Artist's Résumé and/or Letters of Recommendation.
7. Current Visual Artist Residency recipients may not apply again until two years after the end date of their award.

Established Artist Eligibility:

Includes the above requirements and the below preferred qualifications:

1. Applicant has received a college degree within the field of application.
2. Applicant has experience with studio operations within field of application (loading/firing kilns, mixing darkroom chemicals, etc.).
3. Applicant has previous experience with Community Engagement and/or leading workshops or classes.
4. Applicant has current representation through galleries, publications, etc.



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Benefits

- Shared studio space, accessible during building hours with designated storage. Working during scheduled classes is allowed, provided that registered students have priority for space and equipment.
- Materials stipend
 - Emerging Artist - \$100 per six-month term
 - Established Artist - \$200 per six-month term
- Representation on the Dougherty's website and marketing including newsletters and social media
- Art Exhibition at completion of residency
- Access to the Dougherty's computer lab and Adobe Creative Cloud, including assistance from our Digital Arts Instructor during lab hours

Ceramics

Studio glazes and firing are covered under the residency. There is unlimited firing in electric kilns, limited raku firing when a trained Instructor or Ceramics Technician is present, and limited firing in the Cone 10 gas kiln. Dougherty Arts Center student work is always first priority.

DAC Ceramics Studio is 1400 sq. ft. providing 12 Brent wheels (including standup and reverse options), 8 Shimpo Aspire wheels, slab rollers, extruder, molds, cone 10 and raku studio glazes, 2 Skutt 1227 electric kilns, raku kiln, and a gas reduction kiln.

Darkroom

Residency includes access to all darkroom equipment and provided chemistry.

DAC Darkroom allows black and white printing with fiber or RC paper up to 16"x20", and film development. Equipment includes 5 Omega D2 enlargers, ability to print 35mm through 4x5, 1 Super Chromega D enlarger, film dryer, and light table.

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Artist Commitment and Responsibilities

The Dougherty Visual Artist Residency is a work exchange program. Residents agree to work approximately 8-12 hours per week at regularly scheduled times. Duties include:

- Monitoring Independent Study or Open Studio hours
- Assisting Instructors or DAC staff as required
- Physical ability to complete tasks including loading and unloading kilns or mixing darkroom chemicals; with reasonable accommodations
- General studio upkeep as assigned
- Assisting with workshops
- Working in an open studio setting where the public is able to interact with the artist during public hours
- Working independently yet cooperatively in a professional studio setting while maintaining self-motivation

Established Artist Responsibilities

Above responsibilities and:

- Teach one three-hour workshop per six month residency term
- Mentor DAC Emerging Artist Resident
- Offer time to lead critiques during open studio

Terms of Residency

The Visual Artist Residency term is six months, renewable for another six months (1 year total). An evaluation will be performed at three months to ensure residency requirements are being met, and another evaluation will occur at five months to determine if the residency is renewable for an additional six month term.

The Artist Residency Program is not a funding program. Beyond a materials stipend, the Residency does **NOT** provide financial or domestic support including transportation, food/meals, or living quarters.





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Schedule and Application Process

Residencies begin in October and April. Below is the schedule for the application process. Applications must be submitted online through the Dougherty’s submittable.com account.

Application Link: <https://doughertyartscenter.submittable.com/submit/113233/visual-artist-residency-volunteer-work-exchange-program>

Residency Term	Applications Open	Applications Due	Notifications	Residency Start Date
October-March	July 1	August 1	September 1	October 1
April-September	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1

To apply, submit the following:

- **Letter of Interest** describing your need, how you plan to use the time and space to further your work, and how a residency will affect your practice (maximum of one page, formatted as a PDF)
- **Community Essay** describing your readiness to engage with the DAC community and how you believe your involvement can impact the Austin community (maximum of one page, formatted as a PDF)
- **Artist Résumé** (maximum of two pages, formatted as a PDF)
- **Artist Bio** (2-10 sentences, formatted as a PDF)
- **Artist Statement** summarizing your practice including medium(s), themes, techniques, and influences (maximum of one page, formatted as a PDF)
- **Two Letters of Recommendation** with contact information
- **Ten Digital Images** of your work including the title, medium, size, and date
- **Workshop Proposal** (if applying for Established Artist Residency) including a description and student goals and objectives (maximum of one page, formatted as a PDF)





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Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed according to the below criteria. Each of the submitted items will be reviewed and used to score the criteria on a scale from 1 to 10 (1=lowest score, 10=highest score). The following four criteria points total a maximum of 100 points.

1. Artist Need
2. Community Involvement and Impact
3. Experience
4. Artistic Merit

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a different panel of judges each residency term (names are not disclosed). Judges are comprised of objective and knowledgeable arts professionals, arts administrators, educators and community members. Panelists are directed to score the application according to the established criteria, making significant contributions of expertise and time to assure that resources are wisely and fairly allocated. Panelists will score applications individually in accordance with established evaluation criteria. Following the panel recommendation, DAC staff will make the final applicant selection. This process may include an in-person interview between DAC staff and the applicant.

Implementation

Following the applicant selection and approval from DAC Management, the selected applicant will be notified via email. Once the residency is accepted, the City will enter into an agreement with the applicant. The agreement will establish procedures and responsibilities for both the City and the resident.

Accessibility

The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call 512-974-3914.

